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GERMAN ARCHAIC ANTHROPOLOGY.*

WE have great pleasure in bearing testimony to the zeal and ability displayed by our continental friends in their archæological researches. They are pursued not only with indefatigable industry, but with an enlightened perception of the benefits which their discoveries may confer on archaic anthropological science ; and whilst enriching their public and private collections with antique objects of rare interest and value, they are accumulating data for the study of ancient races, and providing means of comparison by which their identity or diversity may be established. And this private enterprise seems to be duly appreciated and seconded by the liberal support of public bodies ; not antiquarian societies alone, whose duty it would be to give their assistance, but municipalities and provincial governments liberally contribute to promote the work. This is as it should be, and England might profit by their example, and not allow researches of great interest too often to fall into neglect and abandonment, simply because in this utilitarian age, the persons who possess the means do not possess the taste and inclination necessary to induce them to afford the resources which individual enterprise has not always at its command. There are exceptions, we are glad to say, but *Cui bono?* is too frequently the answer given to a request, when a little unselfish assistance might be productive of most useful results. The Anthropological Society has in a liberal and right spirit established a separate fund for the encouragement of archæological explorations, more especially in the Celtic field, persuaded that this is the only way of arriving at definite conclusions on certain questions of racial import which are at present in a somewhat unsettled state. Our foreign *confrères* are also as fully alive to the importance of the results derived from the labours of British antiquaries, as we are from theirs, and it is by this reciprocity of interest that science must ultimately reap the benefit of more accurate definitions. We recently noticed in this Journal Mr. Warne's work on *The Celtic Tumuli of Dorset ; The Revue d'Alsace* (Feb. 1867) has an article on the same work, by the author of *Tombes Celtiques d'Alsace*, who therein observes that the Dorset tumuli resemble those of the valley of the Rhine, and particularly some that were in-

* *Das Alamannische Todtenfeld bei Schleithem und die Dortige Römische Niederlassung.* Von Dr. Martin Wanner, Staatsschreiber. Schaffhausen, Druck und Verlag der Brodtmann'schen Buchhandlung, 1867. "The Alemannic Burialgrounds and the Roman Settlement near Schleithem". By Dr. Martin Wanner, State-Secretary, Schaffhausen, 1867. (Plates.)

vestigated by Colonel de Morlet at Mackwiller in Switzerland. Tumuli also in Saxony, and the lake settlement at Meilen in Switzerland, have produced urns, implements, and weapons corresponding with those which have been found in the tumuli of Wilts and Dorset (Keller).

The work to which we now invite attention is one of very decided ability, embracing the description of discoveries recently made in the Roman settlement, and Alemannic Cemetery at Schleithem, near Schaffhausen. With the latter we are chiefly interested as affording some points of comparison with the Frank- and Anglo-Saxon burial grounds of France and England.

The village of Schleithem is situated in a fertile luxuriant valley between two chains of hills that extend into the Black Forest. It seems to have been known to the Romans as the Station Juliomagus, on the road from Vindonissa (Wendisch) to the Danube ; one of those important military posts of Gallia Belgica that were intended to secure their conquests on the right bank of the Rhine, and to be made the basis of their operations in the subjugation of Germania. The district was occupied by the Imperial Roman power at a very early period. In the reign of Augustus, Drusus settled the *Agri Decurnates*, as they were called, the lands situated between the Rhine and the sources of the Danube, which, according to Tacitus, were in his day peopled by Gauls, not by Germans ; and these borderlands remained under the Roman power in the time of Probus, after which they were lost. The fierce Teutonic race inhabiting the country bordering on the right bank of the Rhine, waged an unceasing warfare with the invaders from the commencement of the third century, and after a succession of defeats and victories succeeded in dispossessing them of the territory, so that by the end of the century they had established themselves in the whole of the country extending from Mayence to the Lake of Constance. In the time of Constantine the Great the lands between the Rhine and Danube were theirs, and from about the middle of the fourth century no other people but the Alemanni were settled on them, with the exception, perhaps, of a small remnant of Gallo-Roman population. These are the people whose remains have been brought to light in the cemetery at Schleithem, the date of which may be assigned to a period from about the middle of the fourth to the end of the seventh century. Of the Alemanni we know nothing more than they were a branch of the Germanic race ; their natural affinities in the genealogy of nations is one of those problems, which researches, like those of Dr. Vanner, may help the anthropologist to unravel.

This Alemannic cemetery was accidentally discovered during opera-

tions consequent on the formation of a new burying-ground for the village of Schleithem, in 1865 ; and in the following year researches were systematically carried out amongst the graves. One hundred and eighty of them were thus explored, and many more left unexamined. The cemetery extends along the slope of a hill ; the graves are arranged in rows, but not in the direction of the valley which is north-east, but lie due east as by compass ; the skeletons which they contained belonged to both sexes and to all ages, and sometimes as many as four were found in the same grave ; they lay horizontally, none deeper than $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet from the surface, measured generally from 5 feet 3 inches to 5 feet 6 inches, and were so much decayed that Dr. Vanner succeeded in reconstructing ten only of the skulls, of which we shall presently give his own description. In one instance only were there any vestiges of cremation with the interments. The graves were uniformly constructed with slabs of rough or hewn stone, and some of them were covered with broad stone slabs, and the stones were laid in mortar. Some of them had floors of cement, and there were fragments of Roman bricks and tiles found. The objects deposited with the bodies, and which are now in the museum at Schaffhausen, consisted chiefly of iron knives, swords, and buckles ; three iron spurs were found ; a few rings and ornaments of silver ; rings, armlets, earrings, belt-mountings, in bronze ; beads of amber, clay, and glass ; a horn comb ; a few coins of Constantine, Tetricus, and Decentius. The swords were of two kinds ; the short, single-edged blade, about 18 inches in length, which is known as the *scramasaxus*, of Gregory of Tours, or the *semi-spatha*, and resembles swords found in the Saxon graves of Kent, in the Frank graves of the valley of the Eaulne in Normandy, and at Selzen in Germany ; probably the "breves gladii" of Tacitus. The other kind has a broad, double-edged blade, 2 feet 6 inches in length ; is comparatively rare, but has been found both in France and England ; the *spatha*. The knife is found in almost all the Saxon graves of Kent. The strap, or belt mountings, are of the same type as those obtained from the Kentish graves, and the Frank cemeteries of Normandy ; but these are not so artistically finished, nor so richly ornamented as those from Kent, nor did the Alemannic population seemingly possess any of those splendid circular fibulæ, for which our Saxon graves are so justly celebrated. In the disuse of the custom of cremation there is an analogy with the Franks and Saxons ; and since Mr. Kemble states that cremation was a universal Teutonic institution, we must infer that its discontinuance is to be ascribed to a religious influence superseding the ancient Pagan superstition. Dr. Vanner observes, that at first he considered this the cemetery of a mixed Roman and Gaulish population, but was

led to abandon this view for reasons with which we entirely coincide. There is a complete resemblance between these graves and their contents with those discovered at Bel-air, near Lausanne, described by M. Troyon; with those of Selzen, described by M. Lindenschmit; and with those of the Alemannic cemetery at Ulm, by Prof. Hasler; to which we may add their analogy with the Saxon graves of Kent, and the Frank cemeteries of the Vallée de l'Eaulne, described by M. l'Abbé Cochet; these again are assimilated by their learned explorer with the graves of Selzen and Bel-air; hence the conclusion seems inevitable that they all belong to one and the same race, widely diffused, diverse in appellation, but probably contemporaneously existing.

Now let us advert to the craniological evidence afforded by these researches. The author reminds us that four types of skull have been found in Switzerland, and named by His and Rüttimeyer from the places where they were first discovered, viz., Sion, Hochberg, Bel-air, Dissentis.

"The Sion type is specially found among the few skulls of the pile buildings, the graves of the Celto-Helvetic, and the Helvetic-Roman period in the old Alemannic graves. The Dissentis skull is in majority among the skulls of the present ossuaries, in which the Sion type is but sparsely represented; but everywhere are found a moderate number of intermediate forms."

He distributes his ten skulls in four groups. The first group consists of skulls Nos. 1, 2, 7, 5, 8. They belong to dolichocephali.

"They are characterised by the gentle curve of the cranial roof; the forehead, more or less straight but not high, passes into a lightly arched vertex, which descends without abruptness into a well-developed rounded occiput, projecting supra-orbital ridges; the top of these skulls presents a broad oval form with a strongly developed occiput.

Measurements in Centimètres.

	Length.	Height.	Breadth	Ht.— length index.	Bdth.— length index.	Ht.— breadth index.
1. Cranium nearly perfect, without face	19·2	13·3	14·6	69·2	76·8	91·
2. Cranium, base wanting	18·5	13·3	14·2	71·8	76·7	93·6
7. Defective cranium	17·5	—	13·1	—	74·8	—
5. Face and base wanting	19·4	13·	13·9	67·	71·6	93·6
8. Cranium nearly perfect	18·7	13·7	13·5	73·2	72·1	101·4
Mean	18·6	13·3	13·8	70·3	74·4	94·9
Mean of Sion skull after His and Rüttimeyer	18·7	14·	14·4	74·9	77·2	97·1

"The description of the form, like the measurements, gives the

characters of the Sion type (moderately dolichocephalic). No. 6 is the skull of a man of powerful osseous structure. Between the legs lay a double edged sword. The anterior part of the skull shows, in the strongly developed supra-orbital ridge, the finely arched forehead and vertex, the Sion type; but the posterior part of the head is broad, and the vertex descends with an abrupt curve, almost angular, into the occiput. This skull combines the characters of the Sion with the Dissentis type; it is a Sion-Dissentis cross. The characters of the almost cubical, pure Dissentis skull are, according to His and Rüttimeyer, its shortness and breadth (brachycephalic); the flattening of the occiput and its almost rectangular dropping off from the vertex and the base.

Measurement in Centimètres.

	Length.	Height.	Breadth	Ht.— length index.	Bdth.— length index.	Ht.— breadth index.
No. 6	18·5	14·5	14·7	79·3	78·4	98·6
Dissentis skull, after His. Mean	17·	13·9	14·7	81·8	85·5	94·

"Nos. 4 and 9 much resemble each other, but differ from the rest. No. 4 is a female skull of the Sion type; No. 9 is probably the skull of an aged female.

Measurement.

	Length.	Height.	Breadth	Ht.— length index.	Bdth.— length index.	Ht.— breadth index.
No. 4	18·	14·	13·1	77·7	72·7	106·8
No. 9	18·5	14·7	13·4	79·4	72·4	109·7

"Despite some similar features these two skulls differ from the Sion type, especially by their height with moderate length; neither do they belong to the Hochberg form. For the present they are isolated among the forms found between the Rhine and the Alps. Deviations from the typical forms resting perhaps on accidental, not normal development are represented by the following two skulls.

"No. 3. The forehead ascends at first rather straight and then passes with a projecting arch into the vertex. The latter shows at the beginning of the sagittal suture a slight notch; the top of the vertex inclines a little back. The occiput much developed in length, somewhat flattened on the sides, and has therefore, viewed from above, a pyramidal faceted shape. This skull might be taken for a Hochberg skull, so much does it resemble this type; but this is contradicted by its moderate length and height; whilst the Hochberg skull is, on the contrary, distinguished by the magnitude of these two diameters in proportion to the small breadth (very dolichocephalic).

"No. 10 has a straight orthognathous face, strongly developed superciliary arches, with a strikingly long, somewhat broad and flat-

tened vertex. The height and breadth are in proportion to the length, but slight; hence the skull appears compressed. Both may be abnormal natural development.

Measurement.

	Length	Height.	Breadth	Ht.— length index.	Bdth.— length index.	Ht.— breadth index.
No. 3	18·4	12·9	13·2	70·1	71·7	97·7
No. 10	19·5	13·3	12·8	68·2	65·2	103·2

“The majority of the skulls hitherto found belong to a type which predominates among the preserved skulls of the early and earliest Helvetians, but which also are found in many Alemannic graves; therefore the Alemanni and the Celtic Helvetians in many instances present the same cranial shape. The characteristic Dissentis skull is not found in its pure form, and one form was found hitherto not met with in the graves between the Rhine and the Alps.”

It would be desirable to compare these measurements and characters with those of the skulls from the Frank cemeteries of Normandy, now deposited in the Natural History Museums of Paris and Rouen, and in the collection of Dr. B. Davis. In a science like anthropology every fact is of value, but hasty generalisation should be religiously eschewed.

QUATREFAGES ON THE POLYNESIANS AND THEIR MIGRATIONS.*

IN this valuable addition to the literature of comparative anthropology M. Quatrefages has undertaken the exposition of one of the most difficult problems connected with the *origines* of the dark-skinned races of the Southern Ocean. It will be remembered, and must, in fact, be borne in mind throughout the whole of our study of what M. Quatrefages now submits for our consideration, that this distinguished anthropologist has definitely given in his adhesion to the monogenistic theory. This present contribution to our knowledge he plainly states is partly made for the purpose of supporting and confirming the arguments employed in his work on the *Unity of the Human Species*; and it therefore, to some degree, assumes a polemical position, and is open to fair and proper criticism. The main question opened up in this

* *Les Polynésiens et leurs Migrations.* Par M. De Quatrefages. Paris, 1866.